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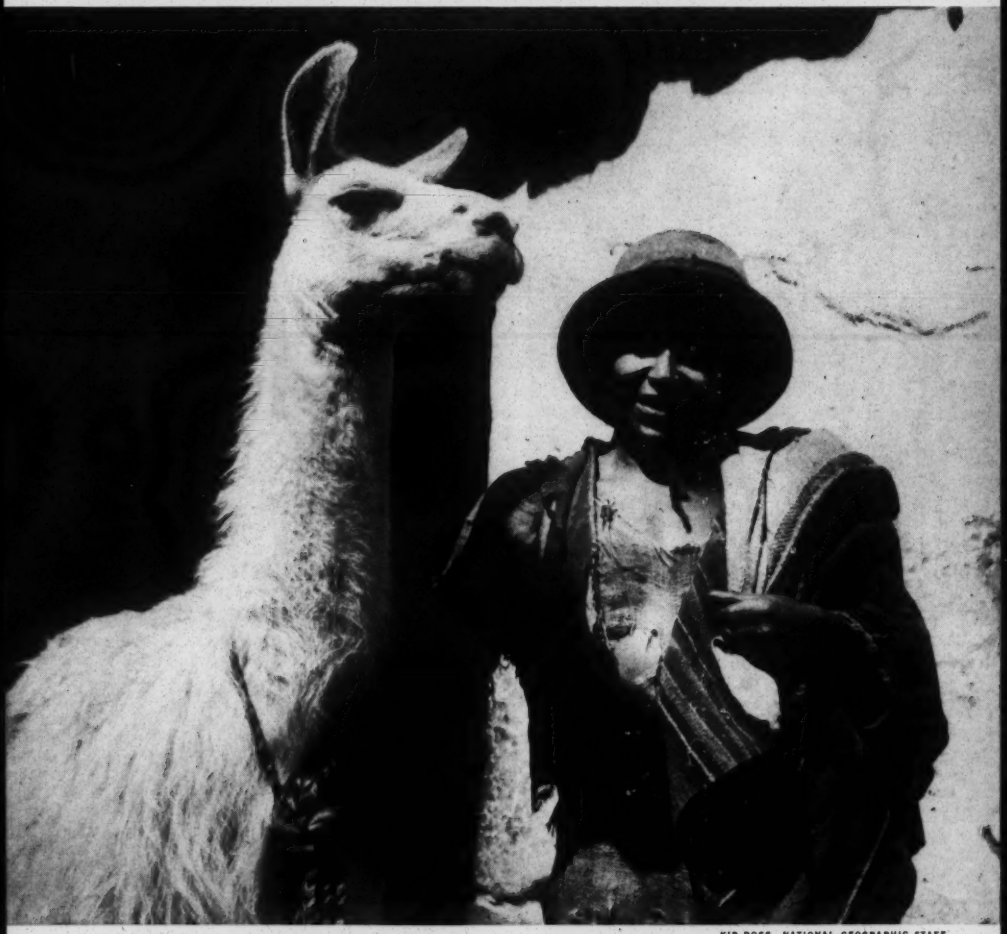

KIP ROSS, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC STAFF

Smiling Peruvian and haughty llama show friendliness and pride, Latin American trade-marks

SPECIAL PAN AMERICAN ISSUE . . .

Mexico	Andean Republics
The Island Republics	Buenos Aires, Argentina
Central American States	Brazil
Spanish Main Countries	Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay

• *Table of Facts and Figures on 20 Latin American Nations (page 306)*

Caribbean Trio . . .

Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHER B. ANTHONY STEWART

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHER B. ANTHONY STEWART

Mexico quickly became headquarters for New Spain as the conquistadores slashed the Aztec Empire to bits. But Spaniards had been at home for nearly three decades on the big islands to the east—Cuba and Hispaniola. Columbus touched both of them on his voyage of discovery in 1492.

People of the Dominican Republic still pride themselves on the purity of their Spanish ancestry (señorita, above). Their country occupies the eastern two thirds of Hispaniola. Curiously enough, on the rest of the island French is spoken by the almost completely black population of Haiti. Slaves of French plantation owners threw off their chains in 1804 to become the world's first Negro republic and the New World's second people to gain independence (first: the United States).

Haiti's military might reached a climax when the despot Christophe built the mammoth Citadel (left). The country today is a land of poor farmers.

Cuba combines rich and poor, new and old. Havana (below), one of the show places of Latin America, lies an hour by air from Miami and is four times as large. Cuba furnishes 40 per cent of the sugar the United States uses. Its countryside is sprinkled with centrals *where cane is refined.*

ROBERT L. BROWNING

PHOTOS BY JUSTIN LOCKE

South of the Border

Skyscrapers sprout along Mexico City's modern streets (below), but Mexico's other face (left) still may be found in sun-beaten adobe hamlets remote from the 20th century.

Across the Rio Grande lie the villages of Latin America, dotting hot plains, slopes of snow-clad peaks, floors of alpine valleys, low-lying seacoasts and river courses all the way to Patagonia. Patient and proud, the people look back on their long struggle to gain political and economic independence.

Ahead lies the full awakening. Latin America's balance of natural resources and population makes possible an almost boundless future.

Today's Mexico City, Havana, Rio are stabs into this future. Meanwhile the humble adobe dwellers scold their burros and await the better days.

Twenty-one sovereign nations, the United States included, form the Pan American Union. Mexico is northernmost of the lands generally labeled Latin America, and the only one touching the United States. It typifies the new-old riddle of the entire region.

In Mexico City, for instance, sandaled Indians brush past hurried businessmen on Avenida Juárez. Chic housewives from 14th-floor apartments rub elbows with serape-clad peons in the new mercados, *Mexican supermarkets fast replacing traditional sidewalk shops.*

More than one-fourth the size of the United States, Mexico ranks second in population in Latin America. Torrid coastal strips give way to rugged mountain ranges which cradle a high and dry central plateau. In this temperate area live most Mexicans. Sombreroed farmers grow beans, tend livestock, and look forward to next saint's day.

But silver and gold enrich the rough hills, ranking Mexico among the world's leaders. Big city industry thrives.

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The Spanish Main

COLOMBIAN EMBASSY

Spaniards sought gold along the Caribbean coast of South America where Andes ranges begin. From unconquerable port-cities, treasure-laden galleons set sail to brave pirates and Queen Elizabeth's freebooters on the long voyage home.

Colombia and Venezuela, twin republics of the old Spanish Main, still are treasure-troves. Colombia's emerald mines, scoured for 400 years, outproduce all others. No South American country mines more gold. It was once so plentiful fishermen fashioned hooks from it.

Other wealth abounds—rich minerals, varying crops that grow on hot sea-level acres and cool upland valleys. Only Brazil grows more coffee in all the world.

Yet Colombia maintains a placid, old Spanish atmosphere, typified by the Tower of the Clock (above) in the colonial port of Cartagena. In contrast, Venezuela's capital, Caracas, heralds the 21st century. Multimillion-dollar Bolivar Center, below, soars above new expressways and underground parking areas, a monument to oil.

More than 2,000 oil derricks rising from Lake Maracaibo rank Venezuela as the world's number-one oil exporter. Production: more than 2,000,000 barrels a day. And oil isn't all. A remote mountain south of the Orinoco River pockets some half a billion tons of high-grade iron ore. Natural gas awaits tapping.

The conquistadores were right. There's abounding wealth in the Spanish Main.

VENEZUELAN INFORMATION SERVICE

UMI

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHER LUIS MARDEN

Six Of A Kind

In company with the three island republics, the six Central American states enjoy surroundings of natural beauty. El Salvador's steam-misted San Miguel Volcano (above) stands as a stout back fence for a henequen field. Henequen makes binder twine and bags. Coffee, rubber, sugar, cotton bring more money to the rich little land, only one in Central America lacking a two-ocean coast.

Costa Rica leans strongly on coffee acres and education. It has more school teachers than soldiers.

NGS PHOTOGRAPHER RICHARD H. STEWART

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHER LUIS MARDEN

Central American entertainment varies. Costa Ricans dance the punto *(above). Panama's secluded Guaymi tribesmen (left) batter rival shins with six-foot balsa logs at* balsería *festivals. The one hurling the most hurtful log wins the loser's wife.*

Honduras boasts a difference: no volcanoes. But it keeps in step by growing bananas (70,000 acres). Mahogany is cut by moonlight, when it's cooler.

Guatemala, beautified by tumbling streams and valley lakes, is like a tropical Switzerland. Fuego and Agua volcanoes were named for fire and water. Nicaragua, largest of Central America's pocket republics, has flourishing gold mines and, of course, bananas and scenic volcanoes.

RIO DE JANEIRO

CHARLES ALLMON, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC STAFF

Rio de Janeiro lives up to its reputation as Cidade Maravilhosa, *"Marvelous City." This view from Sugar Loaf shows how Brazil's capital edges the many bays making up a vast, meandering harbor. Botafogo Bay's yacht basin lies at right. Copacabana curves away at left.*

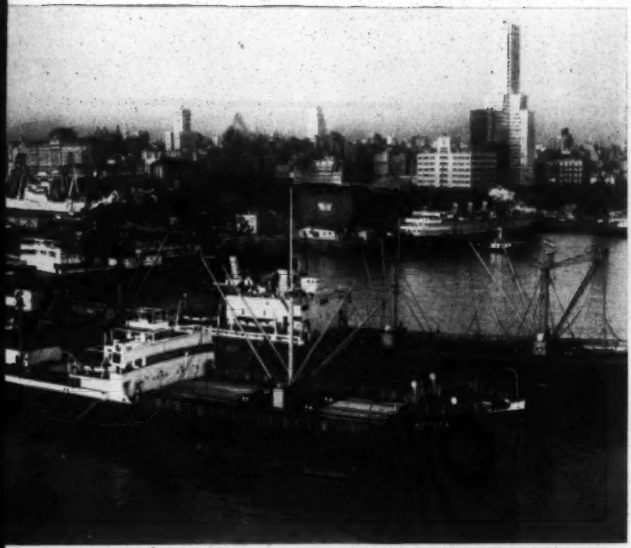
KIP ROSS, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC STAFF

MACHU PICCHU, *"lost city" of the Incas, perches high in Peru's Andes. The National Geographic Society co-sponsored expeditions that uncovered it. The Society's field trips also contributed greatly to knowledge of archeology in Mexico and Central America*

Facts And Figures On 20 Sister Republics Of Pan America

Country (*Independence Day*)	Area Square Miles	Population (*Persons per Square Mile*)	City Capital* Port†	What it sells (Exports)	What it buys (Imports)
ARGENTINA (*July 9, 1816*)	1,084,402	19,111,000 (*18*)	Buenos Aires*†, Rosario	Grains, meats, wool	Machine tools, vehicles
BOLIVIA (*August 6, 1825*)	424,162	3,198,000 (*8*)	La Paz*, Sucre*	Tin, other minerals	Food, mining machinery
BRAZIL (*September 7, 1822*)	3,287,198	58,456,000 (*18*)	São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro*†	Coffee, Brazilian pine	Oil, vehicles
CHILE (*September 18, 1810*)	286,397	6,761,000 (*24*)	Santiago*, Valparaíso†	Nitrate, copper	Machine tools, food
COLOMBIA (*July 20, 1810*)	439,519	12,657,000 (*29*)	Bogotá*, Barranquilla†	Coffee, oil, emeralds	Machine tools, vehicles
COSTA RICA (*September, 15 1821*)	19,695	951,000 (*48*)	San José*	Coffee, bananas, cacao	Flour, textiles, tools
CUBA (*May 20, 1902*)	44,218	5,829,000 (*132*)	Havana*†	Sugar, tobacco, molasses	Food, vehicles, tools
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (*February 27, 1844*)	18,816	2,404,000 (*128*)	Ciudad Trujillo*†	Sugar, coffee, cacao	Machinery, food
ECUADOR (*August 10, 1809*)	104,506	3,675,000 (*35*)	Guayaquil†, Quito*	Bananas, cacao, balsa	Textiles, food
EL SALVADOR (*September 15, 1821*)	8,061	2,193,000 (*272*)	San Salvador*	Coffee, balsam gum	Wheat, vehicles
GUATEMALA (*September 15, 1821*)	42,042	3,258,000 (*77*)	Guatemala*	Coffee, bananas, chicle	Food, utensils
HAITI (*January 1, 1804*)	10,714	3,305,304 (*308*)	Port au Prince*†	Coffee, sisal, sugar	Clothing, food
HONDURAS (*September 15, 1821*)	43,277	1,660,000 (*38*)	Tegucigalpa*	Bananas, tropical woods	Sugar
MEXICO (*September 16, 1810*)	760,373	29,679,000 (*40*)	Mexico*, Veracruz†	Cotton, silver, other minerals	Vehicles, wheat
NICARAGUA (*September 15, 1821*)	57,143	1,245,000 (*22*)	Managua*	Coffee, cotton, gold	Machine tools, vehicles
PANAMA (*November 3, 1903*)	28,753	910,000 (*32*)	Panamá*†, Colón†	Bananas, cacao, abacá	Cars, gasoline
PARAGUAY (*May 14, 1811*)	157,047	1,565,000 (*10*)	Asunción*	Cotton, hardwoods, yerba maté	Food, farm machines
PERU (*July 28, 1821*)	506,189	9,396,000 (*19*)	Lima*, Callao†	Oil, other minerals	Food, vehicles, tools
URUGUAY (*August 25, 1825*)	72,172	2,615,000 (*36*)	Montevideo*†	Wool, meat, grain	Raw materials, machines
VENEZUELA (*July 5, 1811*)	352,143	5,774,000 (*16*)	Caracas*	Oil, coffee, iron ore	Machinery

● **For comparative purposes, United States area is 3,022,387 sq. mi.; population, 170,461,800; density, 56 per square mile.**



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHER VOLKMAR WENTZEL

Buenos Aires

A South American City of the World, No. 8 in the Series

Buenos Aires is Latin America's largest city. The 2,981,000 inhabitants of the city proper make it the leading metropolis of the southern hemisphere. In fact, it is the third largest city in the New World, topped only by New York City and Chicago.

Mighty skyscrapers of Buenos Aires tower above swarming ships. Argentina's capital is also its doorway—a noisy, modern port on the 28-mile-wide Rio de la Plata. World-ranging vessels aim for the city as though it were a bull's-eye. Imports thump on its wharves and cram its warehouses—lathes for factories, cars for families, tractors for farms, machines and materials for industry. In return, dockside cranes lower cargoes of meat, meat products, grains, fruits, timber, and vegetable oils into gaping holds. These are the products of the fat pampas *that spread behind the capital.*

No single street or building can typify a city so vast as Buenos Aires—especially since streets are constantly widening, new buildings sprouting to hold new arrivals.

One of the city's more than 70 parks combines modern airport facilities with entrancing gardens and thousands of trees among 18,000 manicured acres. A city bathing beach, reputed to be the world's largest, sweeps for half a mile. Roses in hundreds of varieties bloom in vast Palermo Park, against an open-air setting for opera and ballet. Sophisticated cosmopolitans find topnotch entertainment at their Teatro Colón, where world-famed performers tread a block-long stage in this "Paris of America."

Argentina recently freed itself from Perón's dictatorship. The Capitol (below) is witnessing a return to democratic government. Visitors have supposed its architecture copied the United States Capitol. Actually, it was modeled after the Parliament of Belgium.

Sight-seers also seek out the fine foods of Buenos Aires cafés, and visit the city's glittering shops. One street bars daytime traffic so people may drool at store windows. They see, and often buy, bright bridles, spurs, and whips that tell of Argentina's range riders, the gauchos. They try on shaggy slippers of guanaco fur, admire textiles and carpets, and listen to real tango music in the land of the dance's invention.

But it is trade that calls the tune for Buenos Aires. Giant processing plants, many in outlying industrial suburbs, prepare agricultural products for export. New factories throb in the capital, luring thousands into the city. The metropolitan area holds some 3,500,000—about a fifth of Argentina's people.

Busy as it is, Buenos Aires has a greeting for strangers, "La casa es suya"—"*the house is yours.*"

PAN AMERICAN WORLD AIRWAYS

HAMILTON WRIGHT

Along The Andes: Ecuador, Peru, Chile

Pizarro, gold-hungry Spaniard, made quick work of conquering the mighty Incas of western South America. Their Indian empire sprawled through Ecuador, Peru, and down into Chile, a series of stone-walled fortress villages tucked into isolated Andean valleys. Pizarro found abundant gold before he was killed 400 years ago. Now it's copper that comes from mountain mines (above). Only ruins like Machu Picchu (page 306) remain of the Incas. Today the Andes shelter three diverse Pacific coast nations.

Ecuador straddles the Equator. Rivers of its coastal lowlands slip through jungles alive with exotic birds, past cacao, sugar, banana plantations. From the port of Guayaquil, ships set sail for the world's markets. Cargoes include balsa wood—for model airplane builders. But highlands away from the coast hold most of the population. Quito, the capital, has a climate like spring in England. Indians keep warm in ponchos, herd flocks of sheep, grow a little wheat, or hire out as pack carriers to trudge long distances over mountain roads (right).

Most of Peru's coastal region is dry, hot desert. Irrigated, it grows cotton, sugar, and rice. Exports of oil have helped build modern skyscrapers above relics of Spanish plazas, in Lima, the capital. Beyond, 11,155 feet in the Andes, the city of Cusco can't forget the Incas that once ruled from here. Their fitted stone walls, barely disturbed by time and earthquake, form foundations for newer buildings.

South of Peru, Chile, the "Shoestring Republic," stretches from the torrid zone to wintry Cape Horn near the Antarctic Circle. About midway, a small patch of rich land yields fruit and other farm produce. Shifts of miners (above) scratch copper from Chilean deposits.

ALBERT E. WOLFF

HANS MANN

Bolivia And Paraguay, *Landlocked Republics*

Europeans gradually reached into the interior of South America to exploit natural resources. Down where the continent's waist narrows, two nations developed, their borders touching, both lacking a seacoast. Paraguay and Bolivia have little else in common. The first is bounded by jungle rivers and by jungle itself. The second is perched high in the Andes.

Though Bolivia lacks a coast, it claims Lake Titicaca, above, the highest navigable body of water on earth—12,507 feet above sea level. Along its shores, two Aymará women in matching millinery take a stroll, feet bare, but bodies well wrapped against chill mountain air. Like city dwellers of Bolivia's working capital, La Paz (the highest capital in the world), their lungs are huge—to help them breathe the thin air of high altitude. Yet tropical fruits grow in lowland valleys.

Tin is the country's mainstay, rather than silver as in colonial times. But the mountain-ribbed land, slightly smaller than Texas and California combined, contains gold, copper, zinc, antimony, wolfram, lead, and bismuth. Most important mining centers and principal cities lie on the bleak 12,000-foot "altiplano" (high plane).

Bolivia's southeastern plains shelve down to Paraguay. The neighbors meet in one of South America's most inhospitable, unlivable regions, the Chaco—a belt of tangled, snake-infested jungle, wild, grassy plain, and trackless swamp. A ruinous war between the two nations raged in this savage borderland in the 1930's.

California-size Paraguay gets along well without a coastal port. The Paraná River gives access to the sea, 1,200 river miles away from Asunción, "port" as well as capital. Fertile red soil, open pastures, and mineral deposits add to the nation's wealth. Guaraní Indians, like the one at right, make up much of the population.

FENNO JACOBS FROM THREE LIONS

UMI

Eyes Turn To Big Brazil

Portuguese settled Brazil, north of Argentina, and left it their language. But there's little in common between the streamlined skyscraper, left, and a quiet Portuguese village scene.

Such huge buildings as this rise casually along palm-lined streets of São Paulo as if to prove that mighty Brazil ranks first in Latin America in area, population, natural riches, and industrial power. In all the world, only Russia, China, and Canada cover more area.

Millions of Americans awake every morning to coffee without realizing that half the world's supply originates in Brazil. Gold, iron ore, diamonds, manganese, cattle, and cotton add to the nation's wealth.

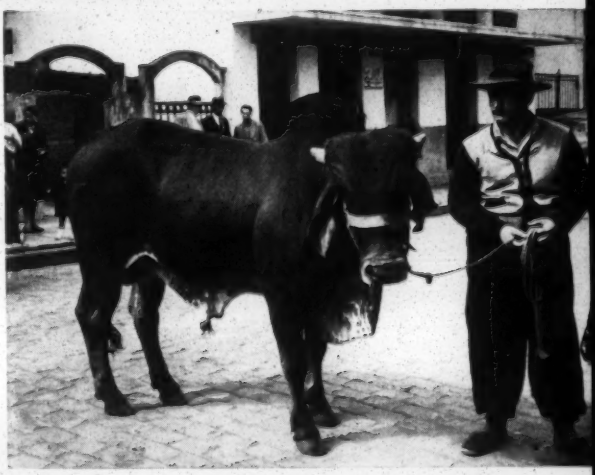
Visitors marvel at Rio de Janeiro, the capital, with its tumbling hills, curving beaches, gay carnivals, and modern apartments (page 307). Industrial São Paulo now is even larger.

W. ROBERT MOORE, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC STAFF

Towns, big and little, spatter big Brazil from humid Amazon banks to southern range lands. Distant communities remain almost isolated. Roads dwindle to tracks. Ferries take occasional traffic across unbridged streams.

Vacaria, in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, is a pleasant cattle town where it's not too unusual to see a baggy-trousered rancher lead his Indo-Brazil bull down the Brazilian equivalent of Main Street.

Like the glittering concrete-and-steel cities and the tiny jungle settlements of the north, Vacaria knows it's going places. After all, it's part of Brazil.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHER LUIS MARDEN

Uruguay

In Uruguay's colonial days, half-wild cattle stampeded its plains in the van of half-wild gauchos. Lover of freedom and open spaces, the gaucho (left) is Uruguay's cowboy.

Most of his "purple land" still is devoted to stock raising. But Uruguay, not so wild today, boasts one of the highest standards of living in South America. Montevideo, the capital, ranks as a leading cultural center of the continent.

Larger than Missouri, Uruguay occupies a pinch of temperate coast and a swell of rolling plains between giants Argentina and Brazil. Such products as wool, beef, and hides show that the gaucho still is at work.

Uruguay, like other Latin American nations, stands or falls by the labor of its little people. As in all the world, human beings are the ultimate resource, the foremost geographic consideration. To learn more about how Pan-Americans live, work, dress, and play, send for lists of National Geographic Magazine *articles on Mexico, Central America, and South America.*

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